REMARKS

The Examiner in U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/544,367, a sister case to the present application, indicated that the subject matter of the sister application was difficult to distinguish from subject matter previously patented by Applicant. As the present case bears resemblance to such sister application, Applicant has amended the claims of the present application to more succinctly identify and point out the subject matter and novelty of the present invention. No new matter has been added as each amendment is properly and sufficiently supported by the specification as filed.

It should be noted that the amendments set forth herein are reflective of the interview conducted with the Examiner on October 28, 2002 for the above-referenced sister application and incorporate the Examiner's suggestions provided therein.

Specifically, claims 1, 5, 25 and 30 have been amended to include the limitation that a user may only access portions of the data storage system appropriate for him according to his specific access rights. Limiting a user's data storage system access to such pre-determined boundaries aids in preserving the integrity of the data storage system. Moreover, this limitation distinguishes the present invention from Applicant's previously patent inventions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after consideration of this preliminary amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (801) 321-4814 so that any necessary changes to the claims may be considered.

DATED this 6 day of November, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) An electronic model and data storage system for storing and maintaining information related to a structure, said data storage system comprising:

an electronic model of the physical features and attributes of said structure;

feature-specific information pertaining to the features and contents of said structure; and

non-physical information pertaining to said structure, wherein said model, said feature-specific information, and said non-physical information are each accessible via a computer network by a user, the user only being able to access portions of the site appropriate for him according to his access rights.

15. (Amended) A method for storing and maintaining information related to a structure on a data storage system for subsequent retrieval, said method comprising the steps of:

providing and storing an electronic model of the physical features and attributes of said structure on ~~an accessible~~ a computer network accessible by a user according to his access rights;

assembling feature-specific information pertaining to said structure, said information also stored on said ~~accessible~~ computer network; and

assembling non-physical information pertaining to said structure, said non-physical information also stored on said ~~accessible~~ computer network.

25. (Amended) A computer-readable data transmission signal containing a data structure, said computer-readable data transmission signal comprising:

a first portion identifying an electronic model of a structure contained in a data storage system that a client is requesting from a server, wherein said client may receive detailed

information regarding the physical characteristics of said structure; and

a second portion identifying a session for communicating between said client and said server, said session allowing a user to receive information pertaining to said structure according to specific rights and assigns granted to said user.

30. (Amended) A computer-readable memory for storing and maintaining information related to a structure, said computer-readable memory configured so that it can be used to direct a computer:

to gather and store an electronic model of the physical features and attributes of said structure on ~~an accessible~~ a computer network accessible by a user according to his access rights;

to gather and store feature-specific information pertaining to said structure, said information also stored on said ~~accessible~~ computer network;

to gather and store non-physical information pertaining to said structure, said non-physical information also stored on said ~~accessible~~ computer network;

to access and retrieve said information related to said structure; and to present said information related to said structure to a graphical user interface.